

# Potrero Hill Recreation Center a Big Draw for Locals

By Herman Wong

At first Carrie Buffington didn't quite know what to make of the Potrero Hill Recreation Center. Last summer the 30 year old moved from a Portland, Oregon suburb to a home across the street from the park. Buffington was drawn to the location partly because her children and dog needed a playground and open space. But her initial visit to the center left her unsure if she fit in there. "At first I felt a little awkward. Why are we the only Caucasians here?" she said.

Buffington's misgivings didn't last long. Her six-year-old daughter, Leah, and four-year-old son, Jonas, quickly made friends, and Buffington found the Center's directors, who supervise the gym and run its programs, to be neighborly. "The people were so friendly and inviting we just felt accepted," she said.

Built in the 1950's, the Potrero Hill Recreation Center anchors the 11-acre Potrero Hill Park located at the top of Arkansas Street. Ensconced in a sunny micro-climate, with



Local youth play basketball at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center. Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski.

expansive Bay Bridge views, the Center attracts a diverse crowd in a neighborhood that's populated by public housing projects and multi-million dollar homes. Basketball players, young mothers and their tykes, teenagers, and dog walkers are attracted to the tennis courts, softball fields, children's playground and one of the City's finest public in-door basketball courts.

The public park has witnessed several changes in recent years. Long-time director Jon Greenburg retired in August after 42 years of service, though he remains a part-time volunteer. Greenburg's retirement precipitated a personnel schedule shift that led to a temporary

*Continued on Page 11*

# Potrero Hill Doctor Resuscitates the Lost Art of House Calls

By Lori Higa

Justin Davis, M.D., grew up in a small community just outside Gainesville, Florida. He was educated at Jordan Glen, a private "hippie, liberal, progressive" school, where he became friends with Jon "Eron" Block. Davis' father owned the small, 60-student school, at which he taught classes and directed theatre. Block's father was a doctor. Through a strange twist of fate, Davis grew up to become a doctor, while Block is the director of a professional youth theater company based in San Carlos. They now live just a stone's throw away from each other on Potrero Hill. "Even as a child, Justin was always so curious. I think I'm a better actor than Justin, but he's definitely the better doctor!" said Block.

Davis practices medicine from his Kansas Street home. The bottom floor serves as his medical office. It's a serene and soothing space, the centerpiece of which is a mirror that doubles as a waterfall. There's even a children's playroom, created from a former storage space, the walls of which display a mural featuring a whimsical, Finding Nemo-type underwater theme. The office was thoughtfully designed by Davis' wife, Nadia Ganace, who works alongside her husband managing the details of his practice. Born in Trinidad of South Asian-Indian descent, Ganace's experience as a former flight attendant and in hotel management is reflected in her welcoming manner and attention

to detail, serving this visitor tea, baked goods and five different kinds of plums plucked ripe from the garden.

While most of us have visited a hospital emergency room, few have had a doctor make a professional house call. Davis, a board-certified M.D. – he completed a residency and passed the associated exams in family practice – specializes in home visits, and has received rave reviews on such websites as Yelp.

"Last week, I got a stomach virus and was vomiting until I was almost delirious...Dr. Davis responded to an email and came right over. Having him come to my home and avoiding waiting in ER made it more bearable," wrote Amy T. "I found his bedside manner very soothing. My fiancé was frantic...the dogs were barking, our

*Continued on Page 18*

# Slowing Economy Puts Rehabilitation Nonprofit on the Brink

By Lori Higa

Located deep inside the historic American Industrial Center (AIC) at Dogpatch's easternmost edge, Disabled Employees Rehabilitation (DER) has been helping the helpless for 61 years. The nonprofit has never received a penny from the government. But now, with the slowing economy, DER is desperately seeking donations and new business to keep its doors open.

DER was the brainchild of Chun Ming, whose calling and livelihood were helping those who could not help themselves, a lesson he learned as a youth growing up in China. Born in 1918 in Canton province, Ming watched his mother tend to his blind grandmother, who couldn't take care of herself. Every day, Ming's mother would make the trip to her mother's house, bringing food, doing chores and keeping her company. When Ming grew old enough to realize how handicapped his grandmother was, he designed an ingenious way to help her navigate around her home and neighborhood by tying knots on a long rope.

In 1938, when Ming was 19, he sailed for the United States, with these parting words from his grandmother: "Someday you must help others the way you helped me." Ming found work as a welder in San Francisco's shipyards, repairing battleships during the war. Afterwards, he got a job managing a training program for a small group of disabled people for the California Department of Rehabilitation. In 1947 Ming registered DER as a nonprofit to teach job skills to the developmentally disabled, paying them through the proceeds

*Continued on Page 14*

## INSIDE

Boomers  
Reunion  
5



Kids on the  
Block  
12



Pet Parade  
13





# Publisher's View Power Plants

By Steven J. Moss

Last month the Potrero Power Plant Task Force – aka, your neighbors – voted to oppose the Mayor Gavin Newsom's proposal to retrofit roughly half the Potrero Power Plant – Units Four, Five, and Six – as a way of closing the other half, Unit Three. The retrofit proposal emerged from negotiations between the Mayor's Office and the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO), which insists that some amount of in-City generation be available to ensure electric grid reliability. In the Mayor's calculation, half a retrofitted Potrero Power Plant is less expensive and less environmentally harmful than developing a small City-owned generating station, a project the San Francisco Public Utility Commission had been pursuing for almost seven years.

There's no small irony in the state's insistence that San Francisco, the densest City this side of Chicago, continue to host a sizeable generating facility. The California Air Resources Board is about to adopt a host of policies – including requiring that one-third of the state's power come from renewable generating resources, as well as of higher efficiency standards for buildings and appliances – that will reduce polluting air and greenhouse gas emissions. Fossil fuels are yesterday's way of feeding our energy appetite.

What's more, San Francisco doesn't need any part of the Potrero Power Plant, or new municipally-owned generation, to ensure reliability. With the half-billion dollar, 400 megawatt (MW) Trans Bay Cable, the City will soon have access to ample electricity supplies. In addition, solar is being steadily added to our roof tops; local businesses have offered upwards of 50 MW of load

that can be curtailed when supplies are tight; and there's an ongoing push for all of us to become more energy and water efficient. And while City policymakers have been arguing about how to close the Potrero Power Plant, electric storage technology has made significant advances, and is now ready for prime time, both to support solar and wind installations during cloudy or windless days, and as a way to manage the overall grid. Demand for electricity has declined in the face of our emerging economic downturn, and, with the right policies in place, could remain flat for more than a decade even with a resurrected economy.

Tens of millions of dollars have been dumped into the Potrero Power Plant, through various Cal-ISO contracts that ensure it remains running while keeping polluting air emissions from the antique plant as low as possible. It'll cost another more than \$100 million to retrofit the plant. One hundred million dollars would buy upwards of 100 MW of permanent energy reductions at San Francisco homes and businesses. These funds could be invested in retiring decades old appliances, helping families and small businesses lower their electricity bills. Or it could be spent on a 1960s-era power plant that, even after its retrofitted, everyone still wants to close.

Of course that's not the way state energy policymaking works. It's easy to dump money into dirty old power plants, but these same funds can't be directly shifted to greener alternatives. Still, the City's *Electricity Resource Plan*, which is supposed to guide our energy future, is almost a half-decade old. It's time we came up with another plan, one that points the way to an energy future in which we want to live in.

# View's Election Endorsements

Massive financial melt-downs, huge federal and state budget deficits, Middle Eastern wars, and a vice-presidential candidate with the least amount of experience in United States history: it's hard not to feel like we're living in a period of governmental collapse. Amidst this public sector apocalypse comes local ballot initiatives A through V, along with a dozen state initiatives. It's nearly impossible for a single individual to develop well-informed opinions about this many proposed laws, particularly in a period in which most of our political attention is focused on perhaps the most important presidential race in the last half-century. Based on our careful examination of the candidates and initiatives, the *View* encourages its readers to vote as follows:

## Candidates

United States President/Vice President: **Obama/Biden.**

United States Congress, District 8: **Nancy Pelosi.**

State Senate, District 3: **Mark Leno.**

State Assembly, District 13: **Tom Ammiano.**

Superior Court Judge, Seat 12: **No.**

## San Francisco Propositions

A, San Francisco General Hospital Bonds: **Yes.**

B, Establishing Affordable Housing Fund: **No.**

C, Prohibiting City Employees from Serving on Boards: **No.**

D, Pier 70 Waterfront District Development: **Yes.**

E, Changing the Number of Signatures to Recall City Officials: **No.**

F, City Elections Only on Even-Numbered Years: **Yes.**

J, Historic Preservation Commission: **Yes.**

M, Changing the Residential Rent Ordinance to Prohibit Specific Acts: **No.**

## California Propositions

1A, High Speed Rail Bonds: **Yes.**

2, Standards for Confining Farm Animals: **Yes.**

4, Waiting Period/Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy: **No.**

5, Sentencing for Nonviolent Drug Offenses: **Yes.**

6, Law Enforcement Funding and Criminal Penalties: **No.**

7, Renewable Energy Generation: **No.**

8, Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry: **No.**

9, Victim's Rights and Parole: **No.**

10, Alternative Fuel Vehicles, Renewable Energy Bonds: **No.**

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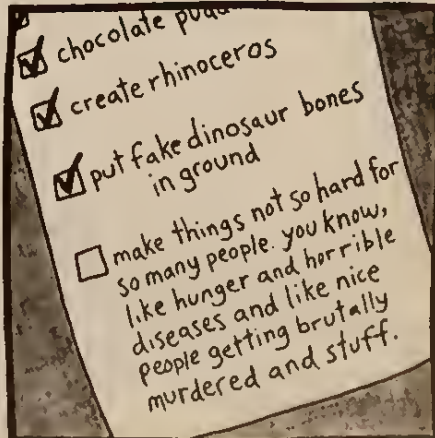
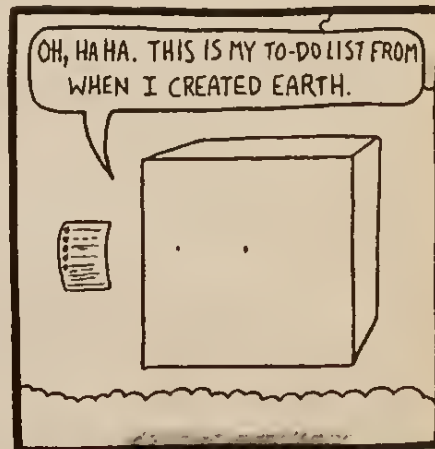
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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

As a waitress at Just ForYou Café, I was dismayed to see your piece “Hell’s Breakfast” in the October *View*. As you mentioned in the article, roughly 2,000 Hell’s Angels were in town for Papa Guardado’s funeral. What you did not mention was that some of those people came from other countries, where gratuity is not the main source of a service person’s income, and is often included in the cost of the meal. The “not tipping” you referred to was simply not the case. We were given tips by the European Angels, just not always to USA industry standard. I took advantage of our good relationship with the local Angels to let them know about this, and they went over and above to make things right. The local Angels have always been generous, polite and patient with us here at Just For You. Your article has created an atmosphere of mistrust and has alienated some of our favorite customers. I feel it was in poor taste to publish this piece, and I think you owe the Hell’s Angels and Just For You employees an apology.

Alyce Kalmar

Dear Editor,

I take pride in the fact that people from all walks of life frequent Just For You Café, from blue collar workers to Hell’s Angels, police officers to millionaires. The Burning Man crowd, secretaries, and families with children all darken our door.

The Dogpatch neighborhood is home to the Hell’s Angels’ clubhouse, but one of our City prosecutors lives on the same block. We have a soul food joint, white table cloth restaurants, a saloon, liquor store, and many other small businesses. The Dogpatch is essentially a microcosm of San Francisco. Many long-time residents have told me that the presence of the Hell’s Angels helps to keep the neighborhood safe.

The Hell’s Angels have been

loyal, frequent customers of Just For You Café for 15 years. They are always respectful, generous, and even quiet.

The power of the public, printed word still holds great sway in this world. Why you would chose to feature Just For You Café and the Hell’s Angels in a negative light based on unsubstantiated information is a great disappointment to this local business owner. Not only was this information untrue, but your decision to publish gossip at a time when these members of our community were mourning the loss of their leader reveals a lack of empathy.

Arienne Landry  
Just For You Café

*The View apologizes to both the Hell’s Angels and Just for You staff for mischaracterizing the interactions that took place at that fine establishment, and thanks all involved for helping us correct the story.*

Dear Editor,

I noticed an omission in Kerry Fleisher’s October article on Potrero Hill food pantries. No mention was made of the St. Teresa/St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry. It has been serving Hill residents for more than thirty years, weekly and at Thanksgiving. We were a client of the Food Bank at their prior location on Indiana Street, and still rely on them for some items. Most of our stock comes from food drives at Riordan and Cathedral Schools and St. Teresa parishioners. Another part of our outreach is the parish seniors, who twice a month or more donate supplies and make more than 200 sandwiches for the multi-service center on Fifth Street.

C. Michael Walters  
Wisconsin Street

# Short Cuts

**Cheez it, the Cops!**

Last month the San Francisco Board of Supervisors’ Budget and Finance Committee, on which Jake McGoldrick, Sean Elsbernd, and Ross Mirkarimi sit, unanimously approved a proposal to lease the old **Jamba Juice** and **Sports Basement** buildings, located on 16th and 17th streets, to the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), despite opposition from the Potrero Hill Merchants and Boosters associations. District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, who was nowhere to be seen during the vote, is apparently unwilling to put pressure on the Board to stop the lease. At this point it seems likely that the SFPD’s tactical, motorcycle, bomb, and homeland security units will be moving to our neighborhood... **Just for You Cafe** is now open for dinner, Wednesday through Saturday... The **Potrero Hills Archives** has a new website; check it out at [www.potreroarchives.com](http://www.potreroarchives.com).

**Bus Stop**

Last month the Municipal Railway Board of Directors approved a major overhaul of the transit system, including changes to existing Potrero Hill bus routes. Under the plan the 53, Southern Heights, line will be discontinued due to low ridership, though some existing segments will be served by modified 12 Pacific and 19 Polk lines, which will provide Downtown and BART connections. The 22-line will be altered to travel along 16th Street to Third Street to serve Mission Bay. If you’re not happy about these changes there’s still time to protest them; they’re not expected to be implemented until next summer.

**Peer Seventy**

With roughly \$76 million of the estimated \$600 million to conduct basic renovations on Pier 70’s 17 most significant historic structures riding on the passage of Proposition D, developers are licking their lips over one of the last great waterfront opportunities in the City. Build Inc., Catellus, Pacific Waterfront Partners TMG Partners; and Wilson Meany Sullivan are circling around the 64-acre Port of San Francisco-owned site, which has 40 historic structures, and could accommodate 2.5 million square feet of new construction. In addition to Proposition D funds, the port is proposing that \$400 million come from a combination of tax increment financing and historic preservation tax credits; \$10 million from a recent parks bond; and \$45 million from the sale of Lot 337, another prime property the port is attempting to develop. The port, which hopes to pick a developer by spring, puts the entire redevelopment price tag at just under \$1.9 billion. Somebody’s ship is about to come in; let’s hope that it’s the neighborhood’s.

**Shit Happens**

Speaking of toilets (see this month’s piece on San Francisco Community Power’s water-saving toilet program), a group of water conservation auditors and trainees were dispatched to a home on Bayview’s Ingerson Street one afternoon last month. As the team approached the address they saw that it was surrounded by a dozen and a half police cruisers, along with a huge vehicle emblazoned “San Francisco Bomb Squad.” It turned out that someone was being held hostage in one of the homes on the block. The lead auditor called Shirley, the homeowner who’d requested the audit, and asked, “Shirley, are you being held hostage?” “No,” she answered, “but there have been cop cars trying to save the hostage across the street since 8:30 this morning,” something she failed to mention when the auditor confirmed the appointment 30 minutes earlier. Either Shirley really wanted that free toilet, or hostage situations are a dime a dozen in Southeast San Francisco. And, no, the auditors didn’t go into the home....By the by, everyday San Franciscans throw unwanted or expired medicine down the toilet, where they end up in the Bay. Dispose of yours responsibly by taking it to Green Dentistry, 360 Post Street.

**The End of the World as We Know it**

In addition to blinding greed on Wall Street, let’s not forget another important origin of our economic collapse: sprawl. The combination of inexpensive land and cheap gas allowed (also greedy) developers to build homes far afield from metropolitan centers, such as Placerville, Tracey, and Vacaville. The United States population growth rate between 2000 and 2003 was roughly 0.7 percent; in zip codes with foreclosure rates higher than one percent – the national average is about 0.3 percent – the growth rate during that three year period was more than four times the national average. As gas prices and adjustable mortgages rates rose, those who’d been lured out to the fringe struggled to make ends meet: some folks were spending upwards of one-quarter of their household income just to get to and from work. The moral of this sad story is clear: sprawl predicated on cheap energy is not sustainable for the environment or our prosperity. Like refugees from an oil war, we can expect individuals and families to come straggling back to the Bay Area in search of jobs and affordable housing. We better make room for them.



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# Potrero Hill Baby Boomers Gather for Second Reunion

By Lori Higa

"Are you a Potrero Hill baby boomer?" read the headline on a flyer posted on a Potrero Hill telephone pole. According to the poster, qualifying adults lived on the Hill between 1950 and 1980; habituated Jackson Park, the Mayflower Saloon, or Joe's Place; or remember the "Green Raft" swimming hole near Mission Rock, among other attributes. On the last Saturday in September several hundred Hill boomers gathered at Jelly's, the historic waterfront tavern a stone's throw from AT&T Park.

About four years ago, insurance quality assurance assistant Marian Estebez, with seven of her closest friends and family members, came up with the idea for a Potrero Hill baby boomers reunion. It took two years, but the group staged their first gathering at the Mariposa-Hunters Point Yacht Club last year. It was a huge success, attended by roughly 450 Potrero Hill baby boomers and those who love them.

This year's gathering attracted 350 souls, less than the first, which Estebez attributed to the Giants game clogging traffic. According to Estebez, at the first reunion "we had lots of food, not enough bartenders, or should I say we didn't have real bartenders, they were old farts who couldn't keep up, but they did their best." Downtown Rhythm performed both years. "The band is a friend of the family, said Estebez. In fact, most of the reunion's organizers and attendees are related by blood or marriage, with Estebez knowing virtually everyone.

"The Estebez family and the Taft family started dating each other and then marrying, resulting in lots of nieces and nephews," chuckled Estebez, as she reminisced about the gang of Hill kids who grew up, played and stuck together. "The reason a lot of people know my family is that my dad worked at the local 76 gas station as a mechanic and he taught all the neighborhood boys and young men about fixing cars," she said.

Estebez's "grandfather had goats, made whisky and wine, and sold it to longshoremen during prohibition," she recalled. While her grandparents were from Spain, Estebez's father, Juan, was born and raised on Pennsylvania Street. "Our family had nine kids. We lived in the projects but were able to get out, thanks to our grandparents,"

Estebez explained. "My grandmother owned two properties on 22nd and Pennsylvania, so we moved there."

One of the fondest memories shared by the boomers was the swimming hole, dubbed "Green Raft," located at the convergence of the pier, railroad track terminus, banana boat docks and the Bayview Yacht Club. "We used to dive right off the raft into the water. That was how we made our fun, since none of us could afford to go away for summer vacation," Estebez recalled. Estebez attended Irvin M. Scott Elementary School in Dogpatch, and middle school at Everett Jr. High School in the Mission because "Potrero Jr. High School hadn't been built yet."

"We used to hang upside down from the wood pilings and perform daredevil feats," added Hal Taft, one of the "gang who lived around Pennsylvania near 20th Street" and who now resides in Stockton. "That was long before 280 was built," Taft remarked, remembering a time before freeways, condominium complexes, live-work lofts and the University of California, San Francisco had obliterated childhood haunts. Taft's aunt, Mary Horton, lived at 18th and Connecticut streets. Estebez's sister, Diana (DeDe) married the brother of Vickie VanWinkle, nee Sons, whose family lived next door to the library on 20th Street. Her other sister, Ruby, married Bob Taft, Hal's brother. VanWinkle, now the boomers' webmistress, grew up in Hunters Point, before moving to Mississippi Street and later Pennsylvania Street. She now lives and works in South San Francisco, where she's a school teacher.

"Kids used to jump off and slide down the big sand mountain at Pennsylvania," Estebez recalled. "Our gang ran around all the places on Mission Rock road. There was fishing boats, a bake shop, a pool



(L to R) Marian Estebez, Elyssa Reyes, Sharon Watson, Linda Tiffault, Diane Cowart. Photo by Laurie Higa

table and restaurant. We also used to hang out at the Ramp. There was the teen club at St. Teresa's that helped keep us off the streets. Those were the days when Army [now Cesar Chavez Street] was a dirt road, and 500 and 600 Pennsylvania were on the same block!"

Estebez estimates that less than one-third of the boomers still live on the Hill. Instead, they reside in Stockton, Redding, Sacramento, Pittsburgh, Vacaville, El Sobrante, Hercules, and out of state, victims of a pricey real estate market and the concomitant loss of blue collar, industrial jobs in San Francisco. Estebez lives near Civic Center,

after nine years on Rhode Island and 19th streets, and before that, Arkansas Street by Jackson Park. Even her 80-year-old father, now retired, lives on Geneva and Mission streets.

For the first reunion, Potrero Hill merchants and businesses Goat Hill Pizza, Farley's Cafe, Safeway and a "boomer named Isaac who owns 10 restaurants," and whom Estebez remembers as "being a paper boy on Pennsylvania Street," donated gift certificates and prizes.

Planning has already started for next year's reunion, which will be held at the Mariposa-Hunters Point Yacht Club.

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# Innovation Considered Critical for Regional Economy

By Lisa Tehrani

As the economy falters, local economists are increasingly turning to a *new model of economic development* – one that focuses on innovation – as the way forward. Earlier this fall a group of government officials, high-tech industry leaders, and economic and financial industry representatives gathered at the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Mission Bay campus to participate in the New Model for Driving 21st Century Economic Development conference.

Doug Henton, President of Mountain View-based Collaborative Economics, explained that economists consider the 21st Century economy to be idea-based, rather than anchored in manufacturing. From this perspective the Bay Area is competing with the rest of the world based on its ideas and ability to innovate. Success is measured by the quality of the work force and speed by which new concepts get to the market.

According to the new economic development model, "Clusters of communities acting as regions are large enough to achieve a critical mass of companies, institutions, infrastructure, and talent, yet small enough to allow for the close interactions among people, firms, and organizations required to innovate and ultimately compete in the global economy." A natural cluster already exists in the Bay Area, with Silicon Valley at the center, but more needs to be done to secure it, according to Henton.

Henton thinks the region needs a "habitat for innovation," meaning that innovative regions need to have a support system that

includes other necessary sectors. Livable communities are critical to innovation; Henton applauded the Mission Bay Redevelopment Area as a good example. "Housing, transportation and land use policies all play an important role," he said. Henton also points to Mountain View as a model, "It is not an accident that Google is located in Mountain View," he stated. "If you want to have an innovative economy you need to have a community that understands the value of innovation."

David Johnson, Business Development Program Director for the City of Menlo Park, was impressed with the conference. "I was really blown away by it because it is thinking into the future and what direction we need to go," he said. Menlo Park will monitor its economic development with new metrics, such as by tracking patents and the amount of venture capital issued to local companies. As with Southeast San Francisco, Johnson noted that Menlo Park has significant amounts of industrial space that's no longer viable, prompting land owners to upgrade their buildings for high-tech tenants.

Converting old, industrial space for high-tech occupants has been a hot topic in Southeast San Francisco. With a spate of new life science related development in Mission Bay, and proposed innovation and life science zoning districts in the Central Waterfront, it appears that the San Francisco Planning Department has bought into the new economic development model.

With the Bay Area coming in fourth place as a leader in the global economy – after London, Tokyo and New York – conference leaders focused on how the region can maintain its competitive edge. According to

Sean Randolph, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, "We need to do this in a more collaborative way." He explained that the rest of the world is investing in infrastructure and implementing focused technologies, leaving no room for complacency in the United States.

"You have to constantly innovate in order to survive," agreed Dr. Regis Kelly, Director of the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences. Kelly reflected on how the Bay Area has a significant number of innovative companies, particularly in the life science arena, and supported in part by substantial public sector funding. He noted that Mission Bay has land available for more life science companies, and that there's an interest in clustering together academics and industry in the area. For example, Pfizer is locating its Biotherapeutics and Bioinnovation Center adjacent to UCSF's Mission Bay campus.

Kelly stressed the concept of developing "regional innovation

brokers," people who can bring together inventors, financiers, production and marketing experts to create new partnerships. He noted that the Bay Area isn't the only area working on this model: Boston and San Diego, as well as cities in Europe, China, Singapore and Korea are also emerging as leaders in innovation. According to Kelly oppressive immigration laws hinder the United States' ability to excel in innovation. "The competition is real and if we do not move quickly then we are in real trouble," he said.

Henton believes that innovation will be the key to enabling the economy to pull-out of the financial crisis. During the last decade considerable investment was made in housing and commercial building, but that activity has almost completely stopped. Over the next several years there's likely to be significant investment in more productive areas and high paying jobs. "We need to diversity and grow the economy with jobs that export dollars. I am hoping to come out of the crisis much stronger," he explained.



Water flowed on Mariposa Street between Third and Illinois one morning last month. Photo by Dick Christian

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# High Efficiency Toilet Program Saves Low Income Families and Small Businesses Water and Money

By Kerry Fleisher

With California in the middle of a drought, and water prices on the rise, property owners are turning to water saving toilets and other devices to reduce residential and commercial water use. Nonprofit San Francisco Community Power (SF Power), with funding from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), recently launched a program to install 2,000 high efficiency toilets for free to qualifying homes and small businesses in the City.

Under SF Power's High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Program pre-1992 toilets, which typically use more than 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf), can be replaced with top-of-line 1.28 gpf models. The new high efficiency toilets use at least 20 percent less water than the ones they're replacing. The savings are created through the use of a vessel in the tank that mixes pressurized air with water, a state-of-the-art alternative to older toilets that rely on gravity to flush and remove waste. The high efficiency toilets have been rigorously tested for performance, and are certified by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

The high efficiency toilets will be installed at apartments, homes, small businesses, and nonprofits. For multi-tenant apartments to qualify for the program at least one renter must meet low-income guidelines, which are comparable to the eligibility requirements for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) California Alternative Rates for Energy program. If there are more than three occupants in a qualifying household, more than one toilet per unit may be eligible for replacement.

Potential program participants will be provided with a complimentary water audit to determine whether their current toilet is eligible to be replaced, and to identify other ways the home or business can reduce its water use. During this evaluation additional free water-saving devices are distributed, such as faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads,

as well as information about other PG&E, SF Power, and SFPUC energy and water rebate programs.

Toilets manufactured before 1980 are one of the biggest water wasting appliances in the City. These fixtures typically use from five to seven gpf. Between 1980 and 1992, toilets were upgraded to 3.5 gpf low-flush toilets. In 1992, the federal government mandated that toilet manufacturers produce toilets that used no more than 1.6 gpf, known as ultra low flush toilets. The most modern water-wise toilets, referred to as high efficiency toilets, use as little as 1.28 gpf.

High efficiency toilets produce money and water savings; they can save a family of four up to \$250 a year. Older toilets are also more susceptible to leaks, which often account for 14 percent of a household's water bill. Leaky toilets can waste more than 200 gallons a day. If a family of four with a leaky toilet switches to a 1.28 gpf model, the new toilet would save up to 22,000 gallons a year.

The best way to determine if there's a leak in one's home is to look at the water bill, and pay attention to any irregularities in water use. Water use is measured in units on the SFPUC water bill, with one unit equal to 748 gallons. Water dials located in the meter box near the front of a building or home track water use using the 748 gallon/unit measurements; smaller dials that are in constant motion indicate a leak.

In addition to toilets, replacing other inefficient appliances, such as old clothes and dishwashers, can save a household another up to \$1,200 a year in reduced water and wastewater bills, and to lower electric utility bills. For example, upgrading to a new high efficiency front-loader clothes washer can save upwards of 7,000 gallons a year. SFPUC offers a number of rebates to customers who want to replace their water-using appliances, including a \$300 rebate for high efficiency urinals; \$200 rebate for efficient clothes washers; and \$50 rebate for pressurized water brooms. Faucet upgrades can also result in significant water savings.



LaToya Younger checks a toilet to see if it qualifies for SF Power's HET program.  
Photo by Kerry Fleisher

Low-flow showerheads – which are provided free under the program – have the potential to conserve 8,000 gallons a year.

Toilets produced in the United States after 1992 – which are ineligible for the program – will have a 1.6 gpf stamp readily visible on them; toilets that qualify for the HET program won't have the stamp. Instead, a date stamp located inside the tank or inside the tank lid can verify whether the toilet was produced prior to 1992. SF Power auditors can also determine whether a toilet that contains neither a gpf or date stamp qualifies for the program.

Toilets with unusual site conditions or maintenance issues, such as a buckled floor around the toilet base, as well as flushometer and industrial-type toilets, don't qualify for the program. Qualifying

toilets are typically 12 to 14 inches from the floor bolt to the wall. Round front toilets, elongated toilets, and American Disability Act models are all eligible for replacement under the program.

SF Community Power, a nonprofit with almost a decade of experience helping San Franciscans better manage their energy and water use, has hired a team of auditors that speak English, Spanish, and Chinese languages. The auditors have been trained to inspect homes for leaks, and can offer advice on how to resolve water problems. During a home or business evaluation, auditors will record showerhead, kitchen sink, and bathroom sink gallons per minute (gpm) readings, and provide complimentary substitute devices to

*Continued on Page 21*



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# Fighting Hunger One Tree at a Time in West Africa

By Steven J. Moss

For almost two decades the Sweden-based nonprofit Eden Foundation has been working with hundreds of farmers in one of Niger's most arid zones to nurture plant – and human – life. According to Josef Garvi, the Foundation's coordinator, nature has abundant answers to Niger's perennial food insecurity problems, but "people are not looking close enough. They look for quick answers, handouts from international aid agencies, big expensive hard-to-maintain irrigation projects, or programs that help politicians look good, but do little to help farmers."

With a \$100,000 annual budget, the 13-person team is based in Zinger, roughly 900 kilometers east of the capital Niamey. For more than 17-years the team has traveled a few times a week to its testing station more than 100 kilometers away to check on 68 plots of plants, divided by varieties, and years planted.

Eden tests its seeds by planting them in a 20-hectare former millet field, which used to be a wasteland. "My father found the most undesirable piece of land with the theory that if seeds can take root here, they can be planted anywhere," said Garvi. He dismisses plant nurseries that set up carefully-controlled water and light conditions that are impossible to replicate in the desert. "Our testing station is arid; we are working in one of the toughest arid zones in all of Niger. Rather than making farmers recreate nursery conditions, we found a 'lab' that most closely resembled farmers' planting conditions." Garvi walks along rows of plants while his wife and three staff enter the plants' heights and growth information into handheld computers.

The project pays 10 seed collectors to comb the desert country year-round looking for possible plants that can feed farmers. Garvi's wife, Renate, who trained as a tropical botanist, also gets seeds from abroad and puts both sets of seeds through what can turn into years of tests. "Once they pass our criteria of viability and produce fruit, and we are convinced they can hold up in Niger's arid conditions, we distribute to farmers," said Renate Garvi.

Since 1991, only 19 out of more than 100 seed varieties – none from outside Niger – have met the three criteria: they can germinate, survive and bear fruit. Another 44 may soon graduate to distribution stage. To date Eden has distributed free seed packets to about 1,300 farmer households. The packets carry enough seeds to produce one tree, plus a measuring stick to help farmers distance their

plantings. No fertilizer or water is needed. Each packet has picture icons instead of written instructions for the mostly-illiterate farmers.

A few kilometers from the testing station, farmer Mala Abdou says he has grown 600 trees since he started getting free seeds from Eden Foundation 17 years ago. "People used to say we could not plant trees," said the farmer. "It was something only God could do. But we learned that man can plant trees also. I had never thought about growing trees before, concerned they would attract birds that could eat my millet."

Other tree-planting programs in Niger, like World Vision's tree regeneration project, have reported that many Nigeriens think of trees as weeds, calling them "firewood" in the local Hausa language. But tree-growing convert Abdou points out a a border of trees he built around a school to protect it from desert winds. "These trees also protect my millet. Before the winds would blow away the millet seeds," said Abdou. Rows of trees now tower over the millet, which Abdou sells. But Abdou keeps the sweet fruits he calls *danya* in Hausa, and other leafy protein-rich vegetables that his trees bear.


With its sacred origins, and rumored medicinal value, farmers also plant *maerua crassifolia*, a plant that yields protein-rich edible leaves that are used in sauces. But the Eden team is reticent, almost tight-lipped, about what goes into the seed packets given to farmers, even shielding them from being photographed. According to Garvi other groups have incorrectly replicated Eden Foundation's method, and have wrongly criticized the method. "We are willing to share, but people need to do it correctly. This takes time. It is not something that will happen in one or two years."

According to the World Food Program almost 40 percent of Niger's population suffers from chronic malnutrition. Periodic droughts since the 1970's have wilted harvests, killed livestock, and scorched the already-caked earth. But Garvi says plants can adapt, pointing to Israel as an example of how vegetation can grow in extreme desert conditions. When asked why Niger is still mostly barren of trees, Garvi looks out at the sparse tree-dotted horizon and replied, "People are blinded by what they think they know. There is uncaptured potential and abundance here. But you have to really look for it, and then work for it."

*This article is based on the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs humanitarian news and analysis service.*



The Potrero Hill Branch Library renovation progresses. Photo by Marjorie Hill



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# City Fees, Fines and Charges Rising Rapidly

By Tom Pendergast

*Special from the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association*

Through increased fees, penalties and enforcement activities, City departments have been raising a lot more money from San Franciscans in the last few years. From fiscal years 2006-07 to 2008-09, revenues generated by the Department of Public Health (DPH) jumped 30 percent, from \$894 million to an estimated \$1.2 billion. Fast growing revenue sources for DPH include fees from restaurants and other food-serving or hospitality-industry establishments, which rose 22 percent, from \$4 million to \$4.9 million. Traffic fine revenues dedicated to the department jumped 79 percent during the period, from roughly \$661,000 to almost \$1.9 million. And penalty-related revenues are up 60 percent, from \$65,000 to more than \$103,000. "All of our fees are based on the cost of [DPH] programs," said Eileen Shields, DPH spokesperson. "Over the past few years the cost of running programs have been more than [DPH] could recover; therefore the fees needed to be increased to recuperate all costs. The majority of the fees are now projected to be near cost recovery."

Restaurants and hospitality establishments are also getting pumped for money by the Department of Public Works, which increased its total revenues from those sources by six percent in the last year, from \$110 million to \$116.3 million. The department raises funds through various permit fees – including those for outdoor sidewalk tables, sidewalk and flower market displays – as well as through penalties and fines for things like improperly dealing with garbage disposal.

Zander Andreas, a third generation San Franciscan and Fillmore Street Boom Boom Room nightclub owner, thinks the City is being too zealous in its attempts to raise money. "I've lived here my whole life. My parents lived here their whole life and so have my grandparents. It's quite a different place now, with a lot of good improvements, yes, but as far as operating a business, sometimes I have to gasp for breath to see how I'm going to make ends meet when another fee, or a raised fee or a service cost is enacted and put on my shoulders." The Boom Boom Room looks a little rough on the outside, sitting on the same block with several closed and boarded-up former retail shops. Step inside, however, and you're in a swanky jazz-era nightclub, featuring a black-and-white checkered dance

floor, plush, dark-red curtains and photographs of all-time great jazz and blues musicians hanging across the walls.

Like many San Francisco businesses, Andreas is still adjusting to a recently enacted fee to cover the cost of providing health insurance to uninsured City residents. "The health care fee, basically to me it's a tax because if the employee doesn't even use it, it still goes to the City's coffers," he said. "I don't know very many employees of my friends' businesses either who are going to use this fee toward healthcare. I don't know that they're going to go to General Hospital to use the City's health plan. If it's not used, where does that money go? It goes into the City coffers." Andreas said he was recently visited by San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) personnel, and became acquainted with a fee he wasn't aware existed: for a permit to have candles. "I've been operating for 11 years with candles," he said. "If I don't use candles, the way that I've designed this place and directed my vibe of the place, the decor, vibe and feel would be completely destroyed. It would be a different place altogether. So of course I'm going to use candles. But now I have to go down to the Fire Department and pay a fee, my annual fee for candles."

According to Kevin Westlye, the Golden Gate Restaurant Association's executive director, restaurants are already getting squeezed by "aggressive price increases," including a recent hike in the minimum wage, mandatory healthcare benefits and rising commodity and fuel prices. Nevertheless, he understands that the City has limited ways to raise revenues. "Under Proposition 13, the county cannot raise property taxes more than two percent a year, which does not keep up with the rising cost of government services," Westlye explained. "The obvious solution is either new fees or fee increases. To deal with the budget deficit there has been discussion of many fee increases."

When Mayor Gavin Newsom's proposal to tax businesses \$80 million to pay for health insurance for uninsured people in the City passed, the association requested its members add the charge to consumer's checks, resulting in a three to four percent increase in diners' tabs. At Pasta Pomodoro, a four percent charge is added to customer's bills, effectively increasing the sales tax to nearly 13 percent to pay for the new charge.

The DPW isn't just soaking restaurants. The department's charge

*Continued from Page 21*

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Sara Moss (left) and a new friend enjoy the Friends of the Urban Forest's October fundraiser in Mission Bay. Photo by Jennifer Bing.

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– Janet J.





# Water Conservation Trainee Works to Overcome Life's Challenges

By Kerry Fleisher

When Latoya Younger was hired by San Francisco Community Power (SF Power) she rejoiced at her chance to earn a steady income. As an SF Power Environmental Outreach Specialist, she could parlay her experience in the City Build Academy, a two-week job training program launched by Mayor Gavin Newsom, into a skilled job in the fast-growing "green collar" economy.

To her surprise, acquiring a job was only one of many hurdles she faced in her quest to sever ties to the welfare system while still receiving child care and housing subsidies. Younger has been on public housing waiting lists for more than a year, rejected from all of San Francisco's shelters, and denied Section 8 housing vouchers outside of the City.

Despite raising a one-year-old daughter on her own, Younger finds herself caught in a web of bureaucracy that prevents her from accessing publicly-provided child care. Her childcare provider

requires that she obtain legal custody of her daughter, but with the father gone, this has proven difficult. To make matters worse, her two welfare caseworkers need paycheck stubs that demonstrate that she works roughly 40 hours a week, but without child care it's impossible to hold a full-time job.

The endless circle of paperwork and tending to her baby's needs has crippled Younger's ability to accept the amount of hours that SF Power would like to give her. Her situation has become so taxing that Younger recently wrote a letter to Mayor Newsom appealing for assistance. She ends her letter: "I have had many obstacles to overcome, Mr. Mayor, but I will tell you there is none greater than to provide for a child without a home."

Younger is currently working with Compass, a community service family center, to obtain housing. Meanwhile, she makes her requisite visits to domestic violence therapists, two welfare workers, and SF Power's office, all the while tending to her daughter. And when she has a spare moment, she plans to personally, and proudly, deliver her letter to the Mayor's Office.

## Recreation Center

Continued from Front Page

closure of the gym on Sundays, according to Steven Cismowski, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's neighborhood area service manager. Cismowski hopes that the center will reopen on Sundays at least part-time before the *View's* November issue hits the streets.

The Recreation and Park department recently approved \$1.3 million for park improvements, which will be used to replace the sandlot playground directly behind the main building, repave the driveway for greater access for the disabled, and fix the North softball diamond by cleaning the undergrowth and installing a new backstop. Improvement plans were put on hold after residents pushed to focus funds on refurbishing the South side softball field instead, and leave the other end open for dog walkers.

Among the changes is a constant: Charles Bryant. Friendly and jovial, Bryant, 49, who is known as Chuck or Charlie O., became one of the Center's directors in 1980. For more than two decades he's visited the nearby Potrero Terrace and Annex housing at 3 p.m. to ensure safe passage for the children to play flag football or take part in the Center's other activities, which range from sports to a social group for young girls and homework help. Housing complex residents will call out his name and wave as he goes by. "I know everybody on this hill," Bryant said. "It's my family."

The Center, with its fading mural of alumni O.J. Simpson high above its entrance, is a basketball mecca. The court – cathedral-like with a high and cavernous ceiling, the roof's wood exo-skeleton exposed, light filtering in through partially opaque windows like stained glass windows – draws players from throughout San Francisco. Sega of America employees drop-in on Wednesdays at noon; Federal Express trucks line the nearby streets on Tuesdays and Thursdays early afternoons, when the delivery company's workers run the courts. During a lull between the year-round basketball leagues for teens and adults, Dennis Wu and his friends, who had played at the gym's Sunday Asian basketball leagues,

stop by on Thursday nights for pick-up games.

During the mid-day games, professional dog walkers talk among themselves on the softball field while a menagerie of dogs – bulldogs, Rottweilers, and boxers – roam unleashed on the grass or chase down balls. The field is not officially a dog area, but in the mornings and afternoons the open space draws many dog owners, who move off to a side patch of green when the kids come out to play.

Young parents and nannies come for the new playground, which was completed last year. Picnic tables and barbeque pits attract families hosting birthday parties and preschooler play dates.

The Center is not without its problems. Some parents complain of teenagers playing in the toddler area, while others are concerned with recent crime. The two most talked about incidents are a mugging at the bus stop in front of the Center, and a purse snatching at the playground. Kate Nicholson, 37, who brings her 11-month-old daughter to the playground, said the latter has made her more cautious. "If no one else is playing in the park I won't come in," Nicholson said.

From July through September of this year 53 crimes have been reported within a 1,000 foot radius of the Center, according to Crime Maps, the City's crime statistics tracker. That number drops to seven within a 500 foot area, which covers the immediate few blocks in front of the center. During the same period, Jackson Playground reported 23 incidents and McKinley Square had 33, within 1,000 feet.

Buffington is undeterred. She plays with her kids at the lower playground and takes them up the hill to run around the softball field with the dog walkers and other children. She and her son recently joined 60 other parents and children for a music class for preschoolers at the Center. Next year Buffington intends to sign her kids up for T-ball. Bryant, who coaches the team, hopes other parents will join them. "It's a beautiful place to come, to bring your kids," Bryant said. "It's just a positive place. Don't just peek-in and assume things. Just come in. It's good for everybody."

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# Kids on the Block

By Stacy Bartlett



Rose Elizabeth Mandell celebrated her ninth birthday, which was on October 21, with a swim party. A good time was had by all.



Sophie Nicholson celebrates her first birthday on November 14. Mom and Dad have been clapping and cheering her on since her first steps on October 12. It won't be long until she is tackling Potrero's hills.



Apryl von Arlt and Robert Haga wish Ava Olivia Haga a very happy second birthday.



Steve, Kylie and Joshua are thrilled to announce the arrival of Jessica Rose - its a girl! surprise! - born September 15.



Olivia Moss, seen here in her favorite tree, turns seven on November 7! Olivia says she'll never leave Potrero Hill because she'd miss her climbing tree.

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# Farley's Pet Fest a Monster Smash

Farley's Cafe's 18th Annual Pet Fest attracted all kinds of costumed critters, some of whom are pictured here. More photographs by Dogpatch resident Christopher Irion are on display at the cafe; the prints will be given away free of charge on December 2, 7 p.m..

Photographs by Christopher Irion





## Slowing Economy

*Continued from Front Page*

generated by providing businesses with economical and efficient product packaging and assembly services.

DER trains its clients to perform repetitive assembly line work, the kind of labor most people would prefer to avoid. The workers assemble a variety of products, including miniature windmills, golf nets, t-shirts, toothpicks, plastic hinges, organic soap, camping equipment and fishing tackle. DER contracts with a number of local businesses, such as the River Soap Company, Western Exhibitors and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Association. The nonprofit is a "sheltered workshop," permitted by the California Department of Industrial Relations and the U.S. Department of Labor to pay its clients a base training salary that is less than minimum wage.

DER initially couldn't afford to rent space; it set-up shop in the basement of the state building in San Francisco. The nonprofit moved a half-dozen times before settling into AIC a quarter century ago. In DER's 7,000 square foot warehouse space, society's castoffs, the mentally and physically disabled, have found a way to make a living. Mid-century last the developmentally challenged were called "retarded;" there were few job training programs for

them because they were considered unemployable and uneducable.

"DER's workers are never called personnel or employees, they are 'clients' or 'members,'" explained Patricia Oliverio, manager with Domar/Pacific, a distributor which has done business with DER since 1989. "They are wonderful people. They may be disabled but they're smarter than all of us." Some of DER's clients were born with their handicaps; others acquired their disability from a severe accident or illness, like polio. Today, roughly four-fifths of DER's clients are Asian immigrants, most of whom would be on welfare if not for DER.

DER trains clients for four months, during which time they're paid a bit less than the state minimum wage. Clients can earn more depending on their dexterity. DER uses a pay by piece method, which includes counting the movements required to complete a given product. Every 100 motions equals .0067 cents. The non-disabled can generally complete 1,500 motions every 50 minutes. Most DER members cannot achieve this; they're only expected to complete 4,800 motions per work day. Clients who successfully graduate from the program are encouraged to apply for a regular job.

Six years ago Ming passed away due to a massive stroke at age 82. "He dropped dead right in DER, doing what he loved to do," said Crew. "Mr. Ming was an angel,"

said Oliverio. "DER would hold two million items for us in stock. They tracked and assembled 200,000 kits in one year, they can do 20,000 first aid kits in a day," she said.

"DER is a one-stop shop for the Chinese-speaking community," said DER board president John Crew. Crew, a civil rights attorney and interim director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, has volunteered with DER for a quarter century. "I fell in love with DER, the people and Mr. Ming," Crew said.

In 1997, when DER celebrated its 50th anniversary, it was feted by local broadcast and print media. At the time DER had 50 clients who worked part-time; today it has less than 30. The nonprofit operates on an annual \$400,000 budget, with five percent coming from donations and the remaining 95 percent from profits generated by the business. Over the years DER has worked with more than 1,300 people, saving California taxpayers more than \$3 million in reduced welfare payments.

Ming didn't accept money from the government because those funds typically paid for therapists, and Ming wanted the money to go directly to his clients. According to Oliverio, after Ming died his "...widow, Betty Chun, took over running DER, but Parkinson's disease got the better of her about a year ago." The nonprofit is now staffed by a mostly veteran crew,

including office manager, Jason Liu, who has been with DER for 18 years; Wai Kwok, supervisor of the shipping department, who's been with the nonprofit for 30 years; and manager Johnny Chen, who took over for Chun, and started at DER as a volunteer years ago.

DER has experienced a serious slowdown in the past quarter. "They used to have a rainy day fund, but that's long gone. The landlords have a lot of compassion though, they don't charge them market rates," said Oliverio. Business at Domar/Pacific has slowed. One product that was eliminated is rubber gasket kits. "Since the economy's gone down, sales of anything car-related have plummeted, so people aren't buying gasket kits anymore," Oliverio said.

Ming hoped to see a program like his in every city in the country. Despite the great strides made by disabled rights advocates, the independent living movement and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), there are few places like DER. According to Department of Rehabilitation spokesperson Jennifer Harris, the state agency continues to provide essential vocational support programs to those with developmental disabilities, despite budget cuts. Still with the ever-widening economic crisis, and DER's history of not taking government contracts, sustaining itself will be hard without help.

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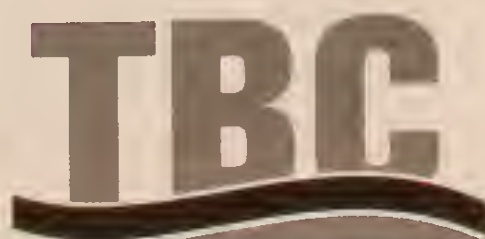
**Congratulations** to the Southeast Waterfront Community and San Francisco Department of Public Works on the very successful Community Clean Team/2008 Coastal Cleanup Event at Warm Water Cove Park.

This year's volunteers planted 2 gardens at Warm Water Cove Park and planted numerous trees, abated graffiti and picked up 858 pounds of debris in and around the park and along Cargo Way and Illinois St.



Trans Bay Cable LLC, a proud sponsor of this year's event, would like to thank our team of volunteers and all those who work hard to keep our community beautiful!

Trans Bay Cable would also like to thank the Southeastern Waterfront community for its patience as we work to bring an important energy transmission line to San Francisco. We look forward to continuing our work within the community.



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# arts

# & ENTERTAINMENT

November 2008

## November 1 through 2009

### Community: StoryCorps Story Booth

Founded and directed by award-winning radio documentary producer and MacArthur Fellow Dave Isay, StoryCorps is the largest oral history project of its kind. Until next October Bay Area residents and visitors can participate by interviewing important people in their in the project lives in the StoryBooth recording studio.

Open most Sundays and Thursdays, by appointment only. To make an appointment: 800.850.4406; www.storycorps.net. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission Street, between Third and Fourth streets.

## November 1 to 5

### Film: *Christmas on Mars*

If you'd rather just slip into a psychedelic dream and forget about the election, check-out this directorial debut of Flaming Lips' frontman Wayne Coyne. *Christmas on Mars: A Fantastical Film Freakout* is a glorious science fiction film that Wayne has compared to, "Maybe *Eraserhead* or *Dead Man* crossed with some kind of fantasy and space aspects, like *The Wizard of Oz* and maybe *2001: A Space Odyssey*, except done without real actors or money, and set at Christmas-time." You know you're intrigued. Features original music by the Flaming Lips, with acting performances by all band members. Definitely not rated. 7 and 9 p.m., Saturday; 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., Sunday. Information: www.roxie.com. Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street, between Valencia and Guerrero.

## November 2

### Art: Dia de Los Muertos Exhibition Gala Event

Visit the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts for a spectacular event showcasing its newest installation, "Muerte Sin Fronteras/ Death Without Borders." Check-out contemporary and traditional Dia de los Muertos altars and enjoy an evening of entertainment, arts and crafts demonstrations, and delicious pan y chocolate. \$5, free for children. 6 to 11 p.m., Exhibition dates: November 1 to 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: www.

missionculturalcenter.org. Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission Street, at 25th Street.

### Festival: Dia de los Muertos Procession

Join the 30th annual Dia de los Muertos procession from 24th and Bryant streets to Garfield Park. Dance in the streets, and celebrate the vitality and richness of San Francisco's Latino culture through art, music, and ritual. Please bring flowers, candles, and remembrances of your loved ones for the community altar. Free. 7 p.m., 24th and Bryant streets. Information: juanpgutierrez@sbcglobal.net.

## November 4

### Community: ELECTION DAY!

Finally, it's over, and the nation has a chance for a new beginning. After you vote check-out these local venues for some raucous election night fun! El Rio, sponsored by the League of Pissed Off Voters and Proposition H for Clean Energy, 8 p.m., 3158 Mission Street, at Cesar Chavez; Retox Lounge, 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., 628 20th Street, at Third.

## November 9

### Community: Saint Martin's Day Celebration

The German Saturday School of San Francisco celebrates a Central European tradition that marks the onset of Winter and reaffirms the need to care for one another during hard times. Join the school's students, faculty and friends at a traditional German lantern parade, followed by hot apple cider. Donation requested. 6 p.m.. Festival of Lantern Procession follows 18th Street to the Jackson Playground Clubhouse, 1501 17th Street. Information: 586.9060.

## November 14

### Kids: Pre-School Open House

PREFund hosts a Potrero Kids at Daniel Webster Preschool (PKDW) open house to celebrate the school's launch and thank the community and its generous donors. PKDW classrooms will be open for tours, and longtime Potrero Hill resident and former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos will be speaking. 4 p.m., 20th and Missouri streets.

## November 14 to 16

### Community: San Francisco's Seventh Annual Green Festival

Sponsored by Global Exchange and Co-op America, San Francisco's Green Festival will present more than 150 renowned speakers, including Cornell West, Barbara Ehrenreich, Amy Goodman and Chuck D, 400 exhibits, great how-to workshops, games and shows for kids and grown-ups, a green film festival, yoga classes and live music. New to the festival is the Green Teen Pavilion, an exclusive area for teens to immerse themselves in interactive activities, such as solar car racing and personalized cosmetic creation. Friday, 1 to 6 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. San Francisco Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 8th Street, at Brannan. Information: www.greenfestivals.org.

## November 19

### Theater: A Night for St. Luke's Hospital at Beach Blanket Babylon

Support St. Luke's Auxiliary and attend Beach Blanket Babylon's first holiday performance! Proceeds from this year's event will be used to establish a fund for children with developmental challenges to receive services at the St. Luke's Satellite Clinic of the Kalmanovitz Child Development Center. The center, with its expert team of pediatricians, psychologists, speech, occupational and physical therapists, offers an integrated assessment process along with therapeutic programs. The event includes a raffle for great prizes. Tickets: \$85 to \$200. Must be 21 or over to attend. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Club Fugazi, 678 Green Street, at Columbus Avenue. Information and tickets: St. Luke's Volunteer Services Office, 641.6490 or dancag@sutterhealth.org.

## November 27

### Community: Thanksgiving Day SF Food Bank Fundraiser

Cruise down to Farley's for your regular fix and make a difference in someone's life. Continuing the annual tradition, all tips will be donated to the Potrero Hill-based San Francisco Food Bank. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1315 18th Street.

## November 28 to 30

### Environment: SFGreasecycle Used Cooking Oil Drop-Off

This Thanksgiving, instead of clogging drains with that oil – a \$3.5 million problem for San Franciscans – recycle it for biofuel! Collect your used oil in a tightly sealed, non-breakable container and drop it off at the SFGreasecycle Drop-off Event at Costco or any Whole Foods parking lot right after Thanksgiving. Whole Foods, all San Francisco locations, Friday to Sunday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Costco, 450 10th Street, at Bryant, Friday 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information: Karri Ving, SFGreasecycle, 695.7366; www.SFGreasecycle.org.

## November 29 to 30

### Art: Celebration of Craftswomen

Potrero Hill resident and photographer Betty Berenson exhibits her work at this annual event. The show features a changing roster of 200 craftswomen, and is the largest gathering of women's crafts in America. All proceeds benefit Women's Building programs. \$8.50 adults; \$6.50 seniors/students; free children. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason, Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. Information: www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org.

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# Public Glass

By Noah Arroyo

Public Glass, located in Bayview at Third and Armstrong streets, provides a cooperative space for artists to learn about and practice the ancient craft of glassmaking. Public Glass features a hot shop, where casting and blowing happens; a flat shop, where glass of different colors and designs are fused, or where artists manipulate a piece's shape; and a kiln casting area, where artists construct molds and fill them with molten glass.

The cost of practicing glass art is similar in scale to documentary filmmaking. Public Glass' furnace, from which artists draw the initial molten glass to begin a piece, is kept at a constant 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, 24/7, contributing to the nonprofit's \$25,000 monthly overhead costs. At Public Glass artists share in these expenses, paying a monthly fee to use the facilities.

The nonprofit was founded by four glass artists in 1997. Their goal was to provide penny-pinching artists affordable studio space. Public Glass quickly attracted an eclectic mix of individuals, ranging from beginners, who take classes which cost between \$75 to \$500, to accomplished artists who depend on high-quality equipment. According to Michelle Knox, Public Glass' executive director, the facility mostly attracts local private art school

graduates. "When their classes are done, where are they supposed to go?" she said.

Knox started as an unpaid volunteer, working her way to become the nonprofit's executive director. She's now introducing new ideas to the organization, and, as she says, resurrecting old ones. She wants to encourage new artists to join, and strongly supports monthly art shows. Because glass work is expensive to practice, and doesn't typically pay off in terms of sales, "We're looking for funding," she said. Knox also hopes that Public Glass artists will interact more with nearby BayView-Hunters Point residents. "It's fine for people to just come by and watch. We're a drop-in community. Just call first," said Rob Tribble, a nine-year Public Glass member.

Knox considers glass working a great resource for at-risk youths. It's highly physical, meditative work, with "consequences" that "don't allow you to be anywhere else." And because glass blowing requires cooperation between two people, "You can either go it alone and burn yourself, or you can trust me," she said. Some pieces can take many hours to complete. According to Knox, one glass-art newbie "... asked me what he could get done in three hours. I had to restrain myself from saying, 'Well, nothing.'"



ABSTRACT 14, 08. Photo courtesy of Betty Berenson.



(Light to Right) Ben Lanir, Steven Moss, and Sara Moss decompress at last month's Burning Man festival on Indiana Street. Photo by Dan Lanir.

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## House Doctor

Continued from Front Page

small cramped home was a smelly mess, and there he was...calmly making a space for himself on the floor, projecting positive energy and going about the business of being a healer."

Kim L., was also impressed with Davis. "Ever want medical care the old-fashioned way, where the doctor is available 24/7 and can make house calls, where you don't have to wait an eternity... where the examination and treatment are granted more than 15 minutes, where the doctor actually cares and takes extra time and attention to your ailment, where you're not just a 'case' being shuffled through the system? Well, I found it! Through an unfortunate accident where I severely injured my finger, I had to seek out emergency care. We found Dr. Davis through the Internet under 'urgent care,' and his service came up as TheHouseDoctor.com... Dr. Davis is a superbly competent doctor, with gentle hands to numb my finger...he delivered seven cosmetic-surgery quality stitches (think about it - seven stitches on a little pinky). Not only did he go the extra mile in time and stitches to ensure minimal scarring, he also put medical glue to further ensure a good closure. My little 'Franken-finger' is now on the mend."

"It's not a big deal for me to get a call at 3 a.m., and walk downstairs to my office, do a few sutures, then walk back upstairs to bed," said Davis. "Being a doctor you're always on call really, but that's the give and take of life." He feels he's able to provide a higher quality of care than traditional providers, because he has more time for patients and lower overhead costs. "In my practice, there's no waiting. I have more time, I'm more flexible whether I see people from my office, or on house calls. For example, in ER, you never see the same doctor twice. My practice gives me the ability and time to be personable. My clients love it; they know they can call anytime," he said.

After graduating from medical school at the University of Florida and studying alternative healing in China and India, Davis moved to San Francisco to work in a clinic that offered house calls. It was hectic and stressful. "I didn't care for the traditional medical practice. There are always too many patients, you're always behind and you're always having to look at the clock. It's not why I'm in medicine. I love forming relationships with patients and taking the time to get to know them as people, not a number."

Davis had been living in his

cousin's Potrero Hill basement for several years when a house on Kansas became available. The home had an unfinished basement, which was perfect for an office. City Ordinance Section 604.1 allows doctors, massage therapists and chiropractors to work from home, and permits them to post a sign advertising their practice. By this time Davis was dating Ganace; they moved in, built-out the basement and got married in the renovated space. Davis launched his solo practice last winter.

Davis' practice is a throwback to a time when country doctors traveled with their black bags to visit the ill or infirm, but with 21st century technology. He offers a range of medical services, claiming that "we can do more in your home than most physicians do in their office, including urgent and primary care, physicals, blood tests, stitches, EKGs, IVs, pediatric, geriatric, gynecology, internal and travel medicine, infectious diseases, dermatology and pain management." Davis is sometimes accompanied on his house calls by his well-groomed, apricot-colored poodle Bijoux. "Animals can be very therapeutic," he commented.

Davis feels strongly that America's "health care system is broken." He doesn't accept insurance. "My patients appreciate not being shuffled through the industry. Insurance restricts the time a doctor can spend with a patient." He provides detailed invoices that include standard insurance codes so that a patient can submit bills to their insurer. "Reimbursement with insurance companies is iffy, as to when and how much you'll be paid," said Davis. "In this system, you have to see a lot more patients, you're making less money, insurance might only pay a small percentage of your costs - \$50 to \$75 - you don't know when you will be paid, you need to employ at least one person to make sure bills are done correctly, which equals more overhead. You lose a lot of quality time with your patients as well as access."

Under Davis' care, "clients may pay more up front, but they get a lot more in the back end," he contended. Davis' fees are based on the case's complexity, how much time is spent on it, and whether it's after 6 p.m.. "Fees drop down with established patients. Procedures are charged separately from fee-for-services," he said. "Part of being a good doctor, I believe, is a role that is educative, rather than paternal. The Greek root for doctor means 'teach.' I came from a family of teachers, so I look at myself that

way."

Davis lived in India for nearly a year, where he traveled and learned about using yoga for healing at Vivekananda Kendra Yoga Research Foundation outside Bangalore. "My studies touched on ayurveda, but mostly focused on medical yoga, as a philosophy, a broad and encompassing way of life," Davis said. While in India he wanted to see the countryside, so he "bought a camel and traveled around for a couple of months, going to places where people had never seen Westerners before."

Davis has also studied acupuncture in Beijing, China. He lived for 10 months in a hutong, the little alleyways that radiate outwards like spokes of a wheel from the city center, where the emperors of old resided. While he doesn't consider himself to be an acupuncturist, he incorporates acupuncture, moxibustion - the burning of a dried mugwort herb bundle - and cupping - a technique employing small glass bowls vacuum-sealed by heat - into his practice. "Each treatment is tailored to the individual. I have some patients who absolutely refuse Western medicine and antibiotics," he said. If a patient needs more complex herbal treatments, Davis will refer them to an acupuncturist or naturopath, such as fellow Hill practitioner Dr. Carl Hangee-Bauer, founder of San Francisco Natural Medicine.

In addition to helping run the practice, Ganace often supplements patient care with good nutrition. "Nadia is a fantastic vegan chef!"

said Davis, her cooking is "creative, not bland, and she's an experienced master baker of cupcakes!" he added with a smile. "We love inviting patients to dinner, so we can give information on nutrition and the importance of living in balance." Family meals often include ingredients from the doctor's garden, where he grows tomatoes and cucumbers. "I love gardening," said Davis, "and now that I have more time, because there's no need to commute to a job, I can spend time growing things...the quality of my life has improved immeasurably, too."

"What I've always liked about Justin is that...he's gentle, kind, helps a lot, genuinely cares," said Block. "He's from a big family, so he's learned how to take care of others." Block speaks both as a friend and from first-hand experience. "...[Davis has] come over when I've been delirious. His is a different way of practicing medicine, it's a throwback to the old days. It feels more comfortable than sitting in ER for hours...which can be a terrible experience! Justin... thinks outside the box. He uses acupuncture, will take the time to understand and explain what you have, whether it's food allergies or something else. Justin and his wife make a great team. It's like the old mom-and-pop shop, where the doctor treats you well, gives you a good cup of tea, a warm environment."

For more information contact Justin C.K. Davis, 1017 Kansas Street, [www.thehousedoctor.com](http://www.thehousedoctor.com), 834.5364; [DrDavis@TheHouseDoctor.com](mailto:DrDavis@TheHouseDoctor.com).



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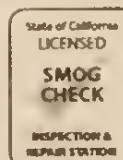
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Please don't pour **ANY** used oil down the drain. Instead, collect it in a non-breakable container with a tight lid and drop it off at Costco or any Whole Foods Market in the City right after Thanksgiving.





# Police Blotter

**October 18, 9:21 a.m.,** Dakota and 25th streets: A victim was robbed of \$2 by six suspects in front of their house. Four of the suspects had weapons. The victim was hit over the head three times with a gun and suffered a large cut to his head. Medics responded and transported the victim to the hospital.

**October 17, 12:09 p.m.,** 1000 block of Connecticut Street: Two victims were robbed of money by two suspects, cutting one of the victim's stomach, and hitting the other with a small bat. Both victims were taken to the hospital, where they are in stable condition. The suspects threatened to kill the victim's child if they called for help.

**October 14, 8 p.m.,** Robbery with a Gun, Missouri and Sierra streets: Officer Fong was working the Bayview Station front counter when a victim came in to report that he and his friend were robbed by an unknown person who offered to show them the way to a Caltrain station. The suspect pulled a leather rifle case out of his long jacket and pointed it towards both victims. The suspect then told the victims to empty their pockets. The victims gave the suspect their cell phones, a gold chain and earrings, after which the suspect fled the area. The victims were not injured during the incident. The suspect was not located.

**October 8, 8 p.m.,** Robbery with Force, Extortion, Blackmail, 600 block of DeHaro Street: School Resource Officer Curry spoke to the parent of a student who was wanted for robbery and extortion. The parent advised Officer Curry that she would turn her son in at Youth Guidance Center for

the warrant. Officer Curry notified the student's probation officer. The probation officer later called Officer Curry to advise her that the parent brought the student in.

**October 7, 9:15 a.m.,** Firearm Possession in School Zone, 600 block of DeHaro Street: School Resource Officer Curry responded to a school regarding a student with a gun. Officer Curry spoke with the school administrator, who told her that he'd found a gun in a student's backpack after questioning him regarding a prior incident. The suspect told the teacher that he needed the gun for protection, and ran out of the school after the teacher confiscated the weapon. The suspect returned to the school and was taken to Youth Guidance Center without further incident.

**October 4, 7:25 a.m.,** Robbery with Force, 22nd and Indiana streets: Officers Saw and Wise responded to a call regarding a theft at a business. The officers met with the victim, who stated that the security guard was conducting his regular rounds when he noticed a truck in the business's yard. The victim stated that he saw two suspects loading scrap metal into the truck. The victim told the suspects to put the metal back and leave. The suspects continued to load the metal into the truck. Another employee arrived to help and stood in front of the truck. The suspects jumped in the truck after loading up all the scrap metal and attempted to drive over the employee. The employee jumped out of the way, got the license plate of the truck and gave it to police. The officers searched the area for the truck and suspects with negative results. No one was injured.



**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next next gathering is the holiday party at the Ramp, 855 Terry Francois Street, Tuesday **December 9th** from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Potrero Boosters** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: **November 25, 7 p.m.**

**Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB)** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz) or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **November 11, 10 a.m.**

**Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **November 4th, 6 p.m.**

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club** meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org). No meeting in November, get out the vote instead! Next Meeting: **December 2, 7pm.**

**Potrero Hill Garden Club** usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.1926 for details.

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## Toilet Program

Continued from Page 7



SF Power's auditors have been trained to give water audits and conservation tips.

reduce water use.

The HET program helps conserve one of San Francisco's most precious natural resources: water from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. The replaced toilets are disassembled, the metal and plastic parts recycled, and the porcelain crushed for road base.

SF Power was founded in 2001 with a \$1.5 million grant from the San Francisco Department of the Environment. Previous SF Power programs, such as Efficiency on Wheels and the Church Light Initiative, distributed energy saving devices to more than 20,000 San Francisco homes, businesses, and churches, saving upwards of 10 megawatts of electricity, with concomitant reductions in utility bills.

Along with other community groups, the nonprofit successfully advocated for the closure of the Hunters Point Power Plant, and currently manages a successful

Demand Response (DR) program for small- and medium-sized businesses. The DR program, which is funded through PG&E by order of the California Public Utility Commission, is active during summer months, and pays property owners and managers to reduce their electricity use when demand on the grid is especially high. DR participants are paid \$40 for each kilowatt they're willing to reduce when called upon on Energy Alert days. Reducing electricity use during peak demand periods helps California keep the lights on and lowers dependence on especially polluting and economically inefficient power plants.

In collaboration with Environmental Defense Fund, SF Power is also piloting the Climate for Community program, which seeks to provide more than 300 low income families and small businesses with low- or no- cost ways to reduce their polluting and greenhouse gas emissions while lowering their energy, transportation, and water bills.

SFPUC is available to conduct water evaluations for San Franciscans who don't qualify for the HET program. Residential customers are eligible to receive up to \$125 in rebates for toilets; with \$200 rebates for commercial establishments. Eligible toilets, which are listed on SFPUC's website, range from single- to dual-flush models, some of which use as little as .8 gpf. Old toilets can be recycled at San Francisco Recycling and Disposal on Tunnel Avenue.

Details on SF Power's and SFPUC's programs can be found at [www.sfpower.org](http://www.sfpower.org) and [www.sfwater.org](http://www.sfwater.org).

## City Fees

Continued from Page 7

for news racks doubled this year, from \$30 to \$60 per location. Department staff photograph garbage cans left in "plain site," and fine homeowners \$100 if they don't properly stow all three of the department's cans, those for garbage, compost and recycling. Recently the mayor proposed fining residents \$100 if they didn't effectively sort their throw-aways into the proper receptacle.

Rene Cazenave, a native San Franciscan who's worked with more than 200 community-based organizations over the last 41 years, believes that it's unfair for the City to increase its revenues by tapping small business owners. He'd like to see larger businesses downtown pay more. "It's trying to balance the budget on the back of community residents in the absence of considering a more fair system that would also charge downtown developers and big corporations for their fair share of these services," he said. "They build monster high-rise buildings that demand a whole slew of City services."

He listed things like Muni, police, garbage and sewage services, all of which will need to be expanded to accommodate more people. "Sure, department fees make some sort of sense in that the people who pay more are those who use more; the problem is the increases are far too high for regular people. The larger folks aren't paying at all or if they are paying some more it's no sweat off their backs," he said.

But Gabriel Metcalf, public policy think tank San Francisco Planning and Urban Research's (SPUR) executive director, disagrees. "I think the City is charging big developers every last dollar possible. Every time there is a new neighborhood plan or rezoning they attach huge fees to new development," he said.

San Franciscans are also paying more for water. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) generates almost all its own revenues, which have increased by more than seven percent since 2006. The SFPUC recently tried to move to a three-tiered plan to charge its water customers. Dubbed the "family tax" because it penalized large families living in a single domicile, the plan was scaled back to a two-tier rate system.

Critics claim it still penalizes large families who have to use more water for cooking, showering, and other daily needs. The plan is intended to encourage water conservation, the SFPUC counters, by charging more for water over a set limit.

Since 2006, water rates have increased by 32 percent, and retail wastewater rates rose by 19 percent. "We have increased water and sewer rates to fund much needed seismic and other improvements to our local and regional water and sewer systems," he said. "We have an aging wastewater and storm water collection and treatment system. More than 70 percent of our sewer lines are more than 70 years old, and we have flooding in some low-lying neighborhoods. Our main treatment plant is more than 50 years old and in need of replacement. We treat 80 million gallons of raw sewage a day in the City," said Tony Winnicker, SFPUC spokesperson.

The Municipal Transportation Agency, or Muni, recently raised parking tickets by \$10 across-the-board. Over the next two years, ticket revenues are expected to jump by 20 percent, adding roughly \$17 million to the transportation agency's pot. Revenues from boot fees for ticket scofflaws are expected to rise by 176 percent by 2010.

The Recreation and Park Department is also raising many of its fees, including to gain access to swimming pools, athletic fields and other facilities, such as entrance to Coit Tower. City revenues from the Ferry Building farmer's market are projected to shoot up 82 percent, from \$696,000 two years ago to \$1,265,000 in the current fiscal year, mainly because the City has started charging tenants market rates. "This year they're making us pay rent," said Christine Adams, the farmer's market manager. "They never did before." She nodded toward the stalls selling fruits and vegetables. "The City is charging us \$6,000. I think we'll be all right, but if it goes up any more we're going to have to raise the rates for all these people and they'll have to charge people more."

While the City can't raise property taxes, Proposition 13 allows taxes to rise when a property is sold, by assessing a new tax rate based on the sales amount. According to California

Continued on Page 22

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## City Fees

Continued from Page 21

Taxpayers Association study, during the last fiscal year county-assessed property values in San Francisco rose nine percent. In the last three years, property tax revenues have risen 21 percent. During the same period revenues from other local taxes rose 14 percent; business tax revenues were up by 19 percent; revenues from service charges rose by eight percent; fine and penalty-related revenues were up six percent; and revenues from license and permit fees increased by 20 percent.

Despite the revenue increases, which resulted in a record \$6.5 billion municipal budget, this year's budget started with a \$338 million deficit, which was closed by service cuts. Most of the increased revenues were absorbed by higher labor costs, with San Francisco now supporting more than 27,000 employees. Recently approved contacts with the police, firefighters and nurses unions resulted in \$118 million in higher costs.

Between fiscal year 2006-07 and this year, salary-related expenditures for the county sheriff's office increased by 27 percent, to \$82.7 million. Costs associated with benefits rose by 22 percent. During the same period salaries for the Police Department rose 26 percent, from \$250.8 million to \$316 million, with an 18 percent increase in benefits. SFFD salaries went up 15 percent, from \$187 million to \$215 million, while benefits rose by 14 percent. Yet despite the increases in departmental costs, the number of SFFD positions declined by eight percent. Muni salaries are projected to climb to \$353.6 million by fiscal year 2009-10, a \$42 million jump over about four years. Benefits for Muni workers will rise by nine percent. In the last two years, Department of Public Health salaries increased by 13 percent, from \$444.4 million to \$500.6 million.

NTanya Lee, family advocacy organization Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth's executive director, said hikes in the cost of City services and fees are the result of a process that started in fiscal year 2003-04, when San Francisco was facing a \$347 million shortfall. "That's when all this started," said

Lee. "So now it's fees that they've raised on top of those fees. The City is in a bind."

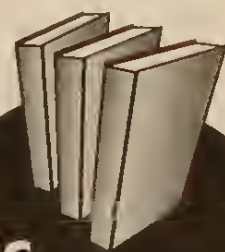
In the past few years middle- and working-class people have moved out of San Francisco – including a dramatic drop in the number of African-Americans – while upper-income people have moved in. Since 1960 the number of children living in the City has dropped by one-third. The two biggest reasons for the out-migration, experts agree, are rising housing costs and the perception that the City's public schools aren't worth the money it costs to live here. Higher taxes, hidden or not, also put pressure on lower- and middle-income families to leave the City.

According to Lee, working class families spend so much of their income on housing and an increased cost of living that they can't always afford their own health care, daycare for their children, or vacations out of town. "We live in a City where we have this weird tension, a built in tension of being in a hot real estate market City, where the real estate market is really good," Lee explained. "That means the City government gets the benefit in terms of revenue. But being a hot-real-estate-market City causes social problems. [Middle and lower income] people can't afford to live here, and families are spending much more of their income on housing and a rising cost of living. The economics are squeezing the middle and lower classes. The City government has a responsibility to fill in the gaps with child care and housing subsidies." Other critics say that the City's tax, fine and fee structures are regressive, hurting poorer residents the most because the charges take a larger, more disproportionate chunk of their income.

Andreas suspects that people like him will have to foot the ever-increasing bills to provide City services. "I have to raise prices to meet the cost of increased fees and taxes. That alone is a wash for me," he said. "If I have to raise the cost of a beer \$2 to meet the cost of increased fees and taxes, I don't think you're going to have many people who are going to buy four or five beers over the course of a night. You're going to kill the entrepreneur by taxing the crap out of them."

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## LIBRARY NEWS

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

Jasmin Springer, Mission Bay Children's Librarian

### Interim Services During Potrero Branch Closure

Bookmobile service will be provided on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the north side of 1502 Mariposa Street, adjacent to the Jackson Park Recreation Center building. Bookmobile services include borrowing and returning materials, reserving or picking up materials, and obtaining or renewing library card.

Storytime for children, from birth to five years old, is offered at 10:30 a.m. on November 13 and 20, at St. Teresa's Community Room, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street.

### Mission Bay Library Branch

The Mission Bay Library is located at 960 Fourth Street, at Berry, near AT&T Park. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.. The Mission Bay Library offers a variety of adult and children's programming, including Baby/Toddler Lapsits for ages birth to three on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and Fridays at 4 p.m. Preschool Storytime, for ages three to five, is offered on Thursdays at 11 a.m. The Muni N and T lines are a block away, at Fourth and King Streets, and street parking is on Channel Street, also a block away. The branch phone number is 355.2838.

The Mission Bay Branch will host the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's production of *Romeo and Juliet* at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 1. This classic tale provides an excellent introduction to Shakespeare, and is suitable for grade school children to adults. There will be a question and answer session after the program.

Scroungers' Center for Reusable Art Parts offers a crafts afternoon for adults and teens at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 15.

### Potrero Library Campaign

The Potrero Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee meets monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m., usually on the third Wednesday of the month. If you'd like to join the committee contact Tina Tom at Friends of the Library 626.7512, extension 106; tina.tom@friendssfpl.org.

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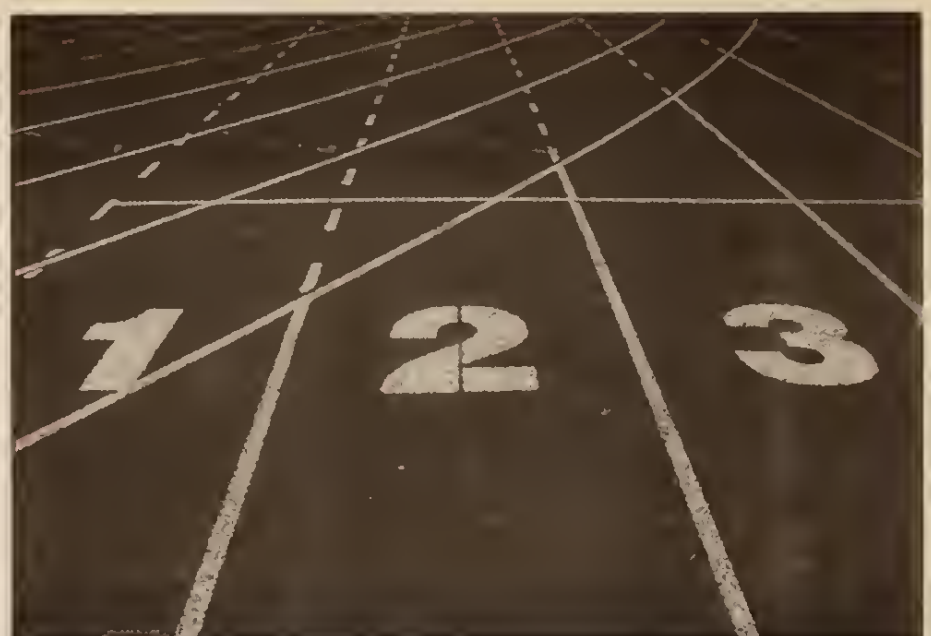
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